

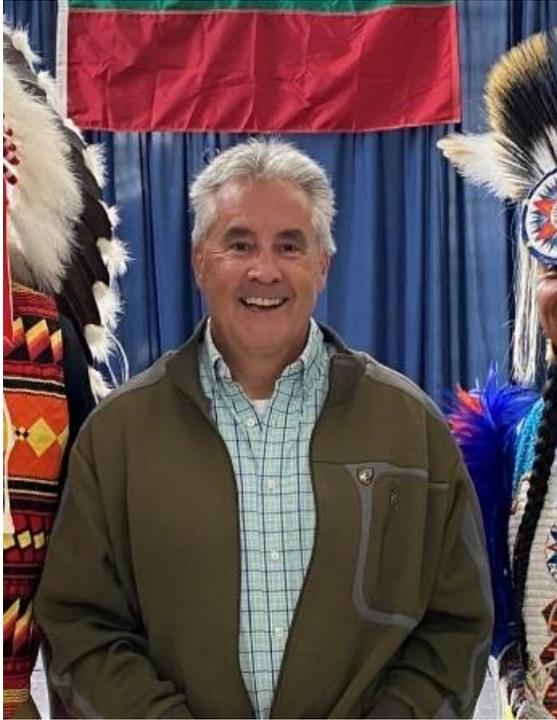
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker Clifford Villa, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Cliff Villa serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the U.S. EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management, where he provides policy direction for programs including Superfund cleanup, Brownfields funding, hazardous waste management, underground storage tanks, Federal facilities, and emergency response. At EPA, Villa supports Biden Administration priorities centered on environmental justice and climate change, drawing upon expanded resources provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Currently on leave from the tenured faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Law, Villa has also taught at Columbia Law School and Seattle University. Before teaching full-time at the University of New Mexico, Villa spent more than 20 years as an EPA attorney in Washington, D.C.; Denver, Colorado; and Seattle, Washington. Among other publications, Villa is the lead author of ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: LAW, POLICY & REGULATION (3rd ed. 2020), and author of legal scholarship on environmental justice including [Remaking Environmental Justice](#) (2020); and [Don't Blame the Flint River](#) (2022). Villa was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with local roots tracing back to the Atrisco Land Grant of 1692.

Keynote Speaker Mark Gilfillan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Mark Gilfillan serves as the Senior Tribal Liaison for the Tribal National Technical Center of Expertise with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He is of Ioway Tribal descendency and an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. With the Sac and Fox Nation, he served as the Tribal Gaming Chairman, including duties for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act For the Sac and Fox Nation, he has developed economic Development, tribal treaty, and sovereignty and business initiatives for tribal council review and court adjudication. With the USACE, he served as a Regulatory Project Manager for 15 years. In 2007, he became the Tribal Liaison for the Sacramento District, assisting South Pacific Division, HW-USACE, Office of the Assistant for the Secretary of the Army, and the Department of Defense regarding Regulatory and Tribal training programs and initiatives. Over the last 6 years, he served as the Tribal Liaison for the U.S. Army's, Office of Army Cemeteries, regarding the Carlisle Indian Industrial School disinterment actions and the return of the Indian Students to their families and tribes.

Gilfillan started his career in 1985 with the U.S. Department of Energy as an Environmental Scientist covering a wide range of radioactive and chemical contaminant and treatment issues, including National Science Foundation research for the transfer of Science and Engineering curriculum to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. In 1996, he transitioned to a Senior Scientist position in the private sector with various engineering firms, and with the state of Kansas for Brownfields and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act related work. He earned an A.A.S in Environmental Remediation Technology and a B.S. in Environmental Restoration, Engineering, and Waste Management from Colorado Mesa University, and a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa.

Gilfillan lives in Grand Junction, Colorado with his family. The family also fostered two Sac and Fox Nation children under the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act. His passion is delivering the USACE mission and Federal Trust responsibilities to Federally recognized tribes and addressing the co-management of natural and cultural resources through Indian Country.

Karen Wetterhahn Memorial Award Winner Rollie Mills



Rollie Mills is a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Student Research Fellow and a Graduate Student Research Assistant at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY. In 2020, Mills earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kentucky. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and is expected to graduate in 2024.

As a graduate assistant, Mills has presented his work at over 15 national and international research conferences. At these conferences he has received numerous honors such as the Graduate Student Research Award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), first place in research presentation at North American Membrane Society National Conference, and first place in research presentation competition at AIChE National Conference.

In 2019, Mills started a program called "Innovate Appalachia". The goal of the program is to educate underrepresented communities in Appalachia County about the importance of STEM, career possibilities, and the power of scientific discovery.